



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

ments are after all so reliable as the publishers wished his readers to believe. And this incredulity is not diminished by the discovery that in matters of biography he was careless in his use of the material collected by Godwin.⁴ There apparently exist, therefore, adequate grounds for caution in accepting the chronology of Godwin, and more especially of Sturges, and the wisdom of independently ascertaining the exact date and place of publication of a poem by Bryant seems fully established for any case in which these are factors of importance.

A. H. HERRICK.

Harvard University.

NOTES ON FRENCH TENSES

(1) In support of the theory that the past definite tense retains, both in Old French and in the modern language, the use of the Latin perfect, with an implied reference to present time (see "The French Past Definite as Perfect," in *The Romanic Review*, April-June, 1914), the following additional examples may be adduced: "Je vueil aler voir mon cousin Tournemine. Il y a grant temps que je ne le *veis*." Froissart, in *Extraits des chroniqueurs français*, p. 272.—"Je suis juste: tout était bien en harmonie dans l'ex-système de tragédie, mais tout était d'accord aussi dans le système féodal et théocratique, et pourtant il *fut*." A. de Vigny, *Lettre à Lord . . .* (1829. Cf. "Fuit Ilium").—"L'on est un réprouvé si la Débauche vous *planta* 'son premier clou' dans le cœur." Léon Levrault, *La comédie*, p. 102 (1913?).

(2) In the following examples, the past definite seems to have a clearly past anterior or pluperfect meaning: "La borne du chemin, qui *vit* des jours sans nombre. . . S'est usée en heurtant. . . Les grands chars gémissants." V. Hugo, *La tristesse d'Olympio*, l. 69 (1837).—"J'ai vu passer soudain . . . une vieille . . . vêtue

⁴ Sturges states (p. lxiii, under 1875) that in September Bryant delivered an address before the Goethe Society. Godwin, however (II, 366 and VI, 335, Note), gives the date as August 27, 1875.

A further error is Sturges's statement (p. lxiv, under 1878) that "on April 10th Bryant attended a 'Commers' given by the German Social Science Association to Bayard Taylor." Bryant's letter (cf. Godwin, II, 392), in which he said: "I saw Bayard Taylor on Monday evening at the 'Commers,'" was written on Wednesday, April 10, 1878. The Kommers must accordingly have been held on April 8, 1878.

de loques qui furent des robes." Guy de Maupassant, *Sur l'eau*, p. 118 (1888).

(3) Following are two examples of the very rare use of the future and of the conditional in *si*-clauses of conditions, both from Brunetière: "Nous pourrions le dire . . . sans craindre d'être démentis, si notre siècle *demeurera* sans doute aussi . . . le siècle du roman, c'est au romantisme encore qu'il en faudra reporter l'honneur ou la gloire." *Époques du théâtre français*, p. 340 (1892).—"Si l'on *aurait* quelque peine à saisir dans la société du XVII^e siècle des traces profondes et durables du cartésianisme, . . . il en est autrement de l'influence du jansénisme." *Histoire de la litt. fran. class.*, II, 337 (pub. 1912). Both are clear cases of concessive fact; cf. the ordinary use of the past definite in *si*-clauses of conditions.

GEORGE N. HENNING.

George Washington University.

L'ABBÉ DUBOIS AND OLD GRANDET

If no one has yet found a "source" for Old Grandet's trick of stammering, I should like to submit the following from Saint-Simon's portrait of the Abbé Dubois:

Il aurait parlé avec grâce et facilité, si dans le dessein de pénétrer les autres en parlant, la crainte de s'avancer plus qu'il ne voulait ne l'avait accoutumé à un bégayement factice qui le déparait, et qui, redoublé quand il fut arrivé à se mêler de choses importantes, devint insupportable, et quelquefois inintelligible. Sans ses contours et le peu de naturel qui perçait malgré ses soins, sa conversation aurait été aimable. Il avait de l'esprit, . . . mais tout cela gâté par une fumée de fausseté qui sortait malgré lui de tous ses pores et jusque de sa gaieté, qui attristait par là.¹

The *Mémoires* were published in their entirety in 1829-31, *Eugénie Grandet* in 1833. It would be interesting to know what suggestions, if any, the irascible Duke's portrait gallery gave to Balzac for his. Surely both authors were fond of indicating the "ties" of their personages.

BENJ. M. WOODBRIDGE.

University of Texas.

¹ As I have no standard edition of Saint-Simon at hand, I have to quote from the selections of Henri Mazel, published under the title *La Cour du Régent*, Paris, Georges Crès et Cie., n. d. See pp. 101-2.